

How has ABC news changed since its inception?

1956

The news theme used from 1956 to 1985 was "Majestic Fanfare", composed by Charles Williams. From 1956 until the early '80s the version used was abridged version performed by the Queen's Hall Light Orchestra, from a recording made in 1943. Each bulletin opened with a clip from the top story of the day, with the title "ABC News" superimposed over the footage. Later, this onscreen approach was replaced by a generic graphic title sequence. In 1982, to celebrate the ABC's 50th anniversary, a new version of the theme was commissioned, which incorporated both orchestral and new electronic elements. With the exception of a period in the mid-'80s, during which a synthesised theme was used for 12 months or so, this was used on radio until August 1988, and on television until early 1985. A reworking (up one tone) of "Majestic Fanfare" was arranged by Richard Mills and recorded in 1988 by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

The 1988 orchestration is still used exclusively for ABC's radio news bulletins across all stations, except Triple J, which uses a 1991 remix of the original "Majestic Fanfare", and NewsRadio, which has always used specially-composed themes since its inception. The original theme package was written by Peter Wall and Tony Ansell.

1985

In 1985 the ABC refreshed its look and structure when the seven o'clock and the current affairs program were combined and made into ABC national. The theme used was 'Best Endeavours' by Alan Hawkshaw, which at the time, was being used as the theme for Channel 4 news in the UK.

National was deemed unsuccessful, that same year the news was refreshed again with a new set, graphics, and theme, composed by Tony Ansell & Peter Wall (www.wallmedia.com.au). This theme was used for almost 20 years, even after the refresh in 1997. In 2010, it was sampled and remixed by the group Pendulum and this revised work went on to be placed #11 on the Triple J Hottest 100 chart on Australia Day 2011.

1997 - 2005

In 1997, the set was updated, a new opener featuring a light blue globe and the ABC logo was introduced, and the theme remained the same but was tweaked. The graphics also changed to match the new look.

2005 - 2010

The theme for ABC News changed on Australia Day (26 January) 2005, and was written by Martin Armiger and John Gray and for a couple of years bore a resemblance to the original Peter Wall / Tony Ansell work in the opening signature notes. Wall challenged the ABC and was successful in reaching an agreement. The opening notes were removed and the work was re-arranged in 2010. The new look made use of an orange and blue globe motif. At the

same time the set and graphics received a major overhaul to fit in with this look. This package was used until 21 July 2010.

2010 - present

With the launch of ABC News 24 on 22 July, all 7pm bulletins across Australia had a graphics overhaul to match the look of ABC News 24. The opener replaces the blue/orange globe style with a series of sliding panels, featuring images specific to each state. The theme from the 2005-2010 era was remixed by Martin Armiger, its composer, giving it a more upbeat, synthesised feel. The same sets have been retained from the 2005-2010 package until new ones can be built to match the ABC News 24 set, however the graphics have changed to match the "sliding panels" look and are more akin to the feel of ABC News 24.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ABC_News_\(Australia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ABC_News_(Australia))

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